
Bipartisan Effort Passes Today, Recognizes American Legion's Contributions

After acknowledging the American Legion's "tireless advocacy" on behalf of American soldiers and communities on the House floor today, Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) led the passage of a resolution calling for the observance of Sep. 16 as *American Legion Day*

.□ Congresswoman Halvorson introduced the resolution (H.Res 679) to highlight the goals and ideals of the 90-year-old veterans service organization and applauded the large bipartisan effort that led to passage by unanimous consent.

"This resolution honors the commitment and service of the millions of Legionnaires who dedicate their time and energy to veterans and their families throughout the country," said Halvorson. "In fact at last count, about 900,000 volunteer hours are logged annually by members of the American Legion, saving American taxpayers an estimated \$17 million. We are very proud of their efforts. Their work is about supporting our nation's veterans and making America a better place—and that should be commended."

Chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, wartime veteran's organization, the American Legion is a not-for-profit community service organization that has nearly 3 million members and 15,000 posts worldwide. It is based on the four pillars: strong national security, veteran's affairs, Americanism, and youth programs - and plays a significant role in the establishment of national legislation.

"Millions of Americans have been encouraged, supported, and inspired by Legion programs, and this resolution is a small way to say thank you for that," said Halvorson.

A similar resolution introduced by Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine passed the Senate on Sept. 11. American Legion National Commander Clarence E. Hill recently expressed his pleasure regarding Congressional support of American Legion Day, including the work of Congresswoman Halvorson, who is the only Illinois member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

"We are honored and humbled that Congress is recognizing the contributions members of The American Legion have been making for this nation for nearly a century now. I am very grateful to all who supported the congressional resolutions and especially to Rep. Halvorson and Sen. Snowe for sponsoring the measures. I encourage all American Legion posts to remind their communities why Sept. 16 has been designated 'American Legion Day,'" said Hill.

Text of the legislation is located at <http://www.congress.gov/cgi-lis/query/z?c111:H.RES.679>:

Video of the Congresswoman's remarks on the floor located at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQO03KSmL1E>